

Application No. 10/713,167
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to remove underlining from the section headings, as required by the Examiner. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered, and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the lift mechanism is operatively coupled to a lower die lift cylinder, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 17 and 18.

In addition, claim 1 has also been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements so as to put it in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 1 be approved and entered.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 4,317,358 ("Yonezawa et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a lift mechanism is provided which is disposed below the lower die and operatively coupled to a lower die lift cylinder, and which is operable to raise the lower die above an upper end of the die holder when the lower die is unclamped.

With this structure, the position and back pressure of the lower die, which is an upper part of the upper lower die assembly, can be controlled. Therefore, the lower die assembly according to the claimed present invention can perform die forging with high accuracy.

By contrast, according to Yonezawa et al, the die lifter 6 rises up under the action of the springs 10 whose position and pressure cannot be controlled. Thus, the lifer 6 of Yonezawa et al cannot control a position of and a back pressure on a lower die. And it is respectfully submitted that Yonezawa et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest that the lifter 6 is operatively coupled to a lower die lift cylinder, in the manner of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 clearly patentably distinguishes over Yonezawa et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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